

09/776,278

P-3724-2-F1-C1-C1

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1.(AMENDED) A golf ball comprising:

a core;

an inner cover layer disposed on said core, said inner cover layer having a thickness of from about 0.100 to about 0.010 inches, said inner cover layer comprising a blend of two or more ionomer resins, at least one of which contains no more than 16% by weight of an alpha, beta-unsaturated carboxylic acid; and

an outer cover layer disposed on said inner cover layer, said outer cover layer having a thickness of 0.010 to 0.070 inches, and said outer cover layer comprising a polyurethane material,

wherein said golf ball has an overall diameter of 1.680 inches or more, said inner cover layer having a Shore D hardness of at least 60, and said outer cover layer having a Shore D hardness of less than 64.

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application and entry of the amendment are respectfully requested. Claims 1 to 8 are currently pending, and no claims have been amended.

The Final Office Action mailed November 25, 2002 addressed claims 1 to 8. Claims 1 to 8 were rejected. The Advisory Action mailed January 31, 2003 stated that the 112 rejections were overcome by the amendment to the specification in the Response filed on January 21, 2003. The Advisory Action also stated that claims 1 and 3 were rejected, claim 2 was objected to, and claims 4 to 8 were allowed.

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nesbitt in view of Sullivan '814 and Wu.

Although Applicant continues to respectfully disagree, in an effort to hasten prosecution, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 2, which was objected to by the Examiner, but would be allowable. Claim 3 depends from amended claim 1, therefore claim 3 should also be allowable.

09/776,278

P-3724-2-F1-C1-C1

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 3 are not obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nesbitt in view of Sullivan and Wu. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Nesbitt in view of Sullivan and Wu be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney if it is deemed that a telephone conversation will hasten prosecution of the application.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of each of the presently objected or rejected claims, claims 1 to 3. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1 and 3 to 8, the claims currently pending.

Respectfully submitted,

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09/776,278

P-3724-2-F1-C1-C1

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES****IN THE CLAIMS**

Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1.(AMENDED) A golf ball comprising:

a core;

an inner cover layer disposed on said core, said inner cover layer having a thickness of from about 0.100 to about 0.010 inches, said inner cover layer comprising a blend of two or more ionomer resins, at least one of which contains no more than 16% by weight of an alpha, beta-unsaturated carboxylic acid; and

an outer cover layer disposed on said inner cover layer, said outer cover layer having a thickness of 0.010 to 0.070 inches, and said outer cover layer comprising a polyurethane material,

wherein said golf ball has an overall diameter of 1.680 inches or more, said inner cover layer having a Shore D hardness of at least 60, and said outer cover layer having a Shore D hardness of less than 64.